

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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NIC-01 ACDA-19 AEC-11 SCI-06 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

NEA-14 IO-14 DRC-01 /163 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9389

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJ: SOVIET WEEKEND PRESS ON RELATIONS WITH

U.S.: FULL SPEED AHEAD

1. WITH THE SUMMIT DATES NOW PUBLIC (FRONT-PAGED
IN SOVIET PRESS JUNE 1), SOVIET MEDIA OVER THE
WEEKEND GAVE HEAVY EMPHASIS TO BENEFITS FOR
BOTH COUNTRIES OF IMPROVED BILATERAL RELATIONS.
MAIN THEME IS THE STRONG BIPARTISAN SUPPORT IN
THE U.S. FOR THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO MOSCOW.

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2. PRAVDA INTERNATIONAL REVIEW JUNE 2 (BOL'SHAKOV)

EMPHASIZES SUPPORT FOR SUMMIT AMONG MAJOR DEMOCRATIC LEADERS AND FOR ONCE IS SILENT ABOUT "REACTIONARY FORCES" IN U.S. OPPOSED TO DETENTE. PROMINENT DEMOCRATICS ARE ALSO SAID TO BE FOR FURTHER STEPS TOWARD AGREEMENT ON SALT, NUCLEAR TESTING, DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE, AND EXTENSION OF CREDITS TO USSR. BOL'SHAKOV USES RECENTLY-COMPLETED PONOMAREV U.S. VISIT TO CONFIRM EXISTENCE OF CONDITIONS FOR MORE INTENSIVE COOPERATION. SAME ISSUE OF PRAVDA RUNS LONG TASS STORY CITING SENATOR SCOTT'S STRONGLY POSITIVE STATEMENTS ON BILATERAL RELATIONS AND ON SUMMIT.

3. IZVESTIYA COMMENTATOR MATVEYEV, WRITING IN MAY 31 ISSUE, ALSO GIVES BIPARTISAN FLAVOR TO U.S. SUPPORT FOR DETENTE BY REFERRING TO RECENT VISITS HERE OF SENATORS SCOTT AND KENNEDY. MATVEYEV ADDS A NUANCE MISSING FROM THE PRAVDA PIECE BY SAYING THAT SOME PEOPLE IN U.S. BELIEVE DETENTE HAS NOT SOLVED KEY PROBLEMS, BUT HE ARGUES REASONABLY THAT THE PROCESS IS YOUNG WHILE THE PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN PILING UP FOR DECADES. (AS USUAL WITH SUCH ALLUSIONS, COMMENTATOR MAY ALSO HAVE SOVIET SKEPTICS IN MIND.) MATVEYEV ENDS WITH SOLID STATEMENT THAT SOVIET PEOPLE ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO COMING SUMMIT.

4. PRAVDA KEEPS U.S. COMMUNIST PARTY SQUARELY ON THE DETENTE SCENE JUNE 3 BY QUOTING (IN TASS STORY) CPUSA OFFICIAL ARNOLD JOHNSON'S STATEMENT THAT COMING SUMMIT MARKS "NEW IMPORTANT STAGE" IN NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. JOHNSON ALSO EXPRESSED CPUSA SUPPORT FOR HOLDING SUMMITS "ON A REGULAR BASIS." THIS FOCUS ON THE SUMMIT AS AN INSTITUTION RATHER THAN A PERSONAL MEETING OF TWO LEADERS HAS BECOME QUITE CHARACTERISTIC OF SOVIET COVERAGE, AND THE PRESIDENT'S NAME HAS BEEN USED SPARINGLY (MATVEYEV DID NOT MENTION IT AT ALL).

5. DESPITE THE EMPHASIS ON IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONS, AMERICAN POLICIES AND INTERNAL CONDITIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REMAIN SUBJECTS FOR OCCASIONAL CRITICISM IN THE SOVIET PRESS. BOL'SKAHKOV, FOR EXAMPLE, REFERS RETROSPECTIVELY TO "AMERICAN IMPERIALISM" IN INDOCHINA, AND WEEKEND COMMENTARIES IN PRAVDA AND RED STAR (SEPTEL) CRITICIZE U.S. ATTEMPTS TO ACTIVATE CENTO. A SIGNED PRAVDA ARTICLE JUNE 3 DESCRIBES THE CONDITIONS LEADING TO A NATIONWIDE GARMENT WORKERS' STRIKE. AND CPUSA APPARATCHIK

JOHNSON WAS GIVEN SPACE IN PRAVDA TO ATTACK THE
AMERICAN "RULING CLASS"FOR EMPLOYING ITS POWERFUL
PROPAGANDA MACHINERY TO ANTI-DETENT AND ANTI-
SOVIET ENDS.STOESSEL

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